

**AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING**  
**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**Members Present:** Sara Wolff, Jean Haggerty, Janice Denton, Hank Peirce, Al Byam, Frank Lattuca

**Members Absent:** Liz Massey, Elsie Fetterman, Doris Mundo

**Staff Present:** John Clobridge, Nancy Pagano, Barbara Slovin

**Others:** Doris Holden (Senior Trust Treasurer) and Robie Hubley (Selectboard Candidate), Marge Babb

**Minutes of July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting accepted.**

**Explanation of "Leadership Team"** Jean explained how the "Leadership Team" came to be. The COA Nominating Committee asked members who wanted to be Chair and no one wanted to. Because "things" were in a state of "unrest" it was felt that three longtime members (Sara Wolff, Jean Haggerty and Hank Peirce), three staff members (John, Nancy and Barbara Slovin), would meet to (1) heal wounds, (2) to make clarity on how folks felt about one another, and (3) to reiterate commitment to needs of seniors. These meetings bring forth COA agendas representing both staff and COA members. Feedback is sought from all COA members and staff.

**Senior Trust Treasurer's Report** Doris Holden passed out her report for the period of July through September 2003. The CD at the bank matures on 9/19 and Doris asked members whether they thought the money should be put back in a CD or whether she should shop around for a higher interest. Al asked what the goal of the Trust money was. Sara said that the money is not invested for growth presently, but the Trust is trying to keep its head above water. It was **moved passed to reinvest the CD for another six months and to accept the Treasurer's Report.**

**Housekeeping Items** COA members should give address and email changes to John. Also, committee preferences need to go to John. Meeting time change from 5 PM to 9 AM was discussed and there was a consensus by staff and members present that mornings are preferred. Doris Mundo spoke to John to say that she has resigned because of her busy schedule and she cannot make morning meetings.

**Special Meeting Planned About Van** Additional funding is needed to pay for amenities over and above the basic vehicle funded by the grant and our 20% match. This will take about an hour to discuss. Al gave examples of why some of the upgrades are desirable. Ferne is trying to get a sample van here to inspect.

**Party Planned to Honor Past COA Members** October 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM, the Senior Center will host a special Showcase which will honor past COA members as part of its program. Entertainment will be provided by Richard Clark who will give a one-person play looking at the wit and wisdom of Mark Twain.

**Staff and COA Retreat** Our retreat is now planned on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-1 PM and will take the place of the regular COA meeting. The Ann Whalen Apartments 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Recreation Room will likely be the location. John is looking into seeing if Dave Stevens, Ex. Director of the Mass. Councils on Aging, can be the facilitator. There is a tentative agenda planning committee for the retreat which anyone can join. Frank Lattuca say he is interested. Sara read the topics list to date and invited others to add their ideas. Barbara Slovin suggested asking if anyone has grant writing experience.

**Senior Trust History** John presented his written outline of the Senior Trust History which summarized growth and significant contributions since 1977. Sara passed out a sheet of relevant excerpts regarding the Senior Trust from past minutes and a focus sheet from April 2001 looking at issues, philosophy and suggested policy and she suggested these be discussed at the next Trust meeting.

Barbara and Nancy generally outlined needs and circumstances when they would ask for money from the Trust on behalf of elders' personal needs. Frank asked if there was a handout prepared for people explaining emergency fund resources. There is no prepared sheet. At our Senior Center, Barbara helps people through the process of looking for funds. First Call for Help is also a source giving information and referral about where to look for money and what funds can go for.

Jean would like to see money used to improve the Bangs Community Center to fund things like a coffee shop, artwork, etc. Barbara suggested that from time to time the Trust should have an article in the *Senior Spirit* about ways their monies are used. Sara suggested brainstorming ways to raise money.

There was a short discussion about the condition of the Large Activity Room and redecorating it. Al Byam knows of students who could help with the design. Nancy mentioned that Ferne has a new storage cabinet. New dishes and table cloths are planned. The drapes are in disrepair. Janice had questions about who can use the rooms and equipment in the Bangs as it is a community center. Nancy said that most all activity rooms are open to the public by reservation. Young people can even schedule activities like breakdancing if they wish as long as supervision is adequate.

**Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano**